

opportunities for thousands of students from around the globe in order to promote the development of scientific and technological leaders.

Her global approach makes it no surprise that she was honored by the Bulgarian Government and the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Foundation. As a co-chair of the Bulgarian Caucus, I applaud Joann's efforts in creating strong business relationships between the U.S. and Bulgaria. I know that she is just as likely to be honored by any number of our Nation's partners for her work in developing partnerships around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to rise and honor Joann DiGennaro for her dedicated spirit and the important work she continues to perform today as president of the Center for Excellence in Education.

FARM, NUTRITION AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Rangel Amendment and thank the gentlemen for offering such a forward-thinking measure.

This amendment will remove the banking restrictions that require prepayment for agricultural goods, that keep Cuban families from purchasing food from American family farmers. And frankly it's past time.

It's past time to leave outdated cold war era thinking on United States-Cuban relations out where they belong—in the cold.

It's past time to reach out to the Cuban people and allow them to engage our democratic free markets.

It's past time to restore the rights of the American family farmer's access to upwards of \$300 million dollars in sales to the Cuban market.

It makes no sense to me to allow agricultural exports into Cuba on one hand and then turn around and set up bureaucratic banking restrictions that severely limit those very exports on the other.

I commend Chairman RANGEL for his leadership on this issue and I hope to work with him to bring some common sense to Cuba policy.

HONORING WALNUT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to dedication of the congregation of Walnut Hill Presbyterian Church on the occasion of the celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

In the First District of Tennessee, there is a long tradition of worship that has brought a great sense of heritage and values to our community.

In 1932 a dedicated group of believers sacrificed to start a church in the area between Blountville and Bristol, TN. During this time they have been a shining light on a hill for all in the Walnut Hill community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring the congregation of Walnut Hill Presbyterian Church for their tireless efforts through the past 75 years in sharing the gospel and encouraging people to pursue better lives.

COMMEMORATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GAY BRASHER

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gay Brasher, an extraordinary person who has dedicated her career and life to educating our youth in public speaking through speech and debate. Her excellence in teaching is reflected in the numerous accolades she has received for developing one of the most successful and renowned speech and debate programs in the nation.

Ms. Gay Brasher was raised in Lafayette, Louisiana. When she was young, she was certain she wanted to eventually coach public speaking and debate. Gay went on to the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she successfully debated in multiple state tournaments. After obtaining her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the university, she stayed in the Louisiana area to begin her teaching career.

At the beginning of her career, Gay loudly voiced her belief in the importance of public speaking courses. She served on the Louisiana State Committee for textbook adoption, focusing on the need for speech education. At her first teaching assignment, she was named the Louisiana Speech Coach of the Year, and shortly after, she moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to continue her teaching.

In the Silicon Valley, Gay bolstered San Jose High School's award-winning speech and debate program. Gay was a great influence on the community and was frequently recognized for her commitment to improving high school debate programs. In March of 1996, she was honored by the Tech Museum of Innovation as an Inspirational Teacher, and in 1999, she was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Good Neighbor Award for her contributions and voluntary service to the community. At one point in her career, she coached speech and debate at all six San Jose High Schools at the same time. She eventually settled at Leland High School, where she developed one of the best speech and debate programs in the nation.

The Leland team consistently wins the sweepstakes award at several league and invitational tournaments; dozens of individual team members qualify yearly for the state and national championship tournament. Gay has now mentored several California State Champions, two Catholic Forensic League National

Champions, and one National Forensic League National Champion. In 2007, Leland High School was chosen as one of only three schools from the hundreds of participants to be honored with the Excellence in Speech and Debate Award.

Aside from coaching the Leland High School Speech and Debate Team, Gay also provides learning opportunities for other members of the Leland community. She hosts an annual speech tournament for English as a Second Language Students to help with their speaking skills. Gay also teaches public speaking at Burnett Junior High School and donates her earnings to the Leland Speech and Debate Program. In addition, she was the Area Chairperson for the California High School Speech Association (CHSSA) and was elected to the CHSSA Hall of Fame.

Gay has been widely recognized by the community for her excellence. Besides being named as the Teacher of the Year for Leland High School in 1998, Gay was also chosen as the San Jose Unified School District's Teacher of the Year. In 2001, the National Forensics League (NFL) named Gay as the Speech Coach of the Year, and in 2006 she was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame. Now in 2007, Gay received her Fifth Diamond from the NFL and continues to inspire the speech and debate community.

The impact that Gay has made on her students is immeasurable. Gay regularly receives letters from former students and universities noting her influence and praising her support. Her passion for speech is inspiring to educators and students alike as we are reminded of the enormous importance of public speaking programs in our educational system. Her guidance has been vital in the lives of so many as she shaped not only an immensely successful speech and debate program but also the students within it.

I offer my congratulations to Gay Brasher on her distinguished career as the coach of the Leland High School Speech and Debate Program. She has touched a generation of students, and her legacy will live on for many years to come.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ADA MANUEL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Ada Manuel who will be celebrating her 90th birthday at the J. Charles Griswell Senior Citizens Center in Georgia.

She was born on August 10, 1917 to Frank and Hettie Drake Spence. Ada was married to the late Booker T. Manuel with whom she had two daughters Juanita Manuel Rhodes Mond and Elaine Manuel Symonette. She is the grandmother of Reginald E. Symonette, Dr. Yulanda Rhodes, Edward R. Rhodes and Wanda D. Rhodes Price; and the great grandmother of Chandler Price, Chad Price, Chelsea Price, Chania Price, Aaron Rhodes and Xenia Rhodes who sadly preceded her great grandmother in death.

After graduating from Mitchell County Elementary High School, she felt the need for